(viii) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(ix) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

(x) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.

(xi) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.

Legislation to protect consumers' interests

326. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering legislative intervention to protect the consumers' interests in the de-regulated textile -trade enviornment;

(b)if so, the details thereof; and

(c)by when a Bill for the purpose is proposed to be brought forward in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is in the process of formulating a legislation, to *inter-alia*, protect the interests of the domestic textile industry and consumers by prescribing markings on domestically produced and imported textiles.

(c) The Government cannot state with certainty the time frame for finalization of the process for enactment of the said legislation. The matter is at the initial stage of the formulation and the proposal has not yet been placed before the Union Cabinet for approval.